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Serial No. _____

Appn. Filed : _____

Applicant: Sergey Sharapov

Appn. Title: PROTECTIVE COVER FOR A VEHICLE

Examiner/GAU: _____

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At: San Francisco.

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon. Following are comments on references pursuant to Rule 98:

U.S. Patent No. 4,805,654 issued in 1989 to Kuo-Hsin-Wang provides an umbrella-type sun shield for automobiles. This device has a complicated construction and can be blown out from the roof of the vehicle by gusts of winds. The installation and removal of the device requires opening and closing of the umbrella-type mechanism. If the metal spikes of the shield are bent, e.g., by the

wind gusts, the damage becomes irreversible and the device has to be discarded.

Tung-Chow was granted U.S. Patent No. 4,834,446 issued in 1989 for a road vehicle flexible cover, which is stored in a box in the vehicle trunk. While this design provided for motorized retraction of the cover, its storage box occupied a substantial amount of the trunk floor space, right in the center part of the trunk floor. The device design is also necessarily complex because it uses an electric motor with an electrical wire running to the dash of the vehicle.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,516,181 granted to Thompson in 1996 discloses a roll-up vehicle cover. The device is inconvenient and cumbersome to use, because after use, the cover has to be removed from the vehicle roof, manually rolled up, the bundle carried to the trunk of the vehicle, the trunk opened, the bundle placed inside, and the trunk closed. Since in a covered position of the vehicle very small air spaces are formed between the cover and the upper surfaces of the vehicle body, the air in these spaces is quickly heated and functions as a medium for transfer of heat from cover to the vehicle.

Patent 6,276,381 issued in 2001 to P. O'Brien discloses a vehicle cover that may be stored in a convenient place such as the car trunk, then taken out and unfolded, and then installed on the vehicle. The cover is made of a fabric or textile such as canvas. One problem associated with this design is inconvenience: it takes time to fold and unfold, and store, the vehicle cover. Furthermore, the protective cover of the type disclosed in US Patent 6,276,381 may be heated to a very high temperature due to a greenhouse effect caused by the cover. Since the entire body of the vehicle is covered from all sides, the spaces between the vehicle and the cover are not ventilated.

U.S. Patent No. 3,992,053 issued in 1976 to L.D. Hrytzak, et al. discloses a sun shield for automobiles that comprises a strip of screening material, which is

stored on a roller within a cylindrical container attached to the automobile. A disadvantage of this device is that for forming a ventilated space between the cover material and the surface of the vehicle body, the device requires the use of an additional structure in the form of foldable legs, which has to be permanently stored in the vehicle's trunk.

Thus, none of the references mentioned above provides, as claimed in my main Claim 1 with dependent Claims 2-14, a protective cover for a vehicle comprising a sheet or a web of a flexible material that in a free state buckles up and form a canopy-type shield above the vehicle. Furthermore, none of the aforementioned references provides, as claimed in my main Claim 15 with dependent Claim 16, a method of forming a canopy-type protective shield above a vehicle by pre-stressing the cover sheet or web with residual stress that causes the sheet to curve upward and form a shield with a space between the vehicle and the cover.

Sincerely,



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